

Dear Sirs,
I've been an XM radio subscriber for two years. Some people might consider me an ?early adopter? but in reality I'm a XM subscriber out of necessity. With the recent additions to the XM Radio service line up my quality of life has improved immensely.

I live in Newbury Park, Calif. at the northern end of the Santa Monica Mountain range about 30 miles north of Los Angeles. President Bush landed at the high school football field two blocks away from my house last summer to visit these local mountains. I'm sure the President didn't suffer from the problem I have in this area, which is poor radio reception. Due to the towering mountains around my house, reception of the L.A. based radio stations is nonexistent. I don't bother trying to listen to radio in the house because the only station that can be received well is a Spanish language station to the north of us. I have nothing against the station I'm just not interested in their offerings. My daughter has had limited success receiving a rap station by stringing 30 feet of antenna wire around her bedroom but if she moves away from the head of her bed the station will turn to static. So on her bed is where she's forced to enjoy the radio. Personally, I'm not interested in that station either and I'm definitely not going to string antenna wire around the living room to listen to any station.

Additionally, I commute from Newbury Park to Torrance five days a week for work. It's about a 60 mile, one-way, commute. Part of my commute actually is through the valleys of the mountains, which makes what little reception there occasionally is even worse. Before recently, trying to get a traffic report to determine which direction I should take to work was a real joy (that was sarcasm). First of all, there's no chance of listening to FM stations in those areas. Listening to AM is fine until I reach the part where the power lines follow along the side of the road and then everything turns to static again. Oh how entertaining (more sarcasm).

All of this may sound funny like it comes from some Hollywood movie where everything bad happens to one guy and we all laugh about it. If we saw that movie though we'd all say, ?Yea, right. That would never happen in real life.? Well this is no movie and this is no joke. I'm an XM radio subscriber out of necessity and since XM has been offering the local traffic reports it has lessened my commute times by allowing me enough of an advance warning to steer around traffic troubles. This makes my kids happier, it makes my wife happier and it makes me happier. The quality of my life has improved. No matter what you may hear against satellite radio featuring localized broadcasts the people pushing those arguments are wrong. They may say that the National Association of Broadcaster is serving the public well by providing a valuable service to the local communities but they're not. Oh, they may get the majority of the people in the community but they won't every try and get the few people that are in my shoes because there's no money in it. And if they're not servicing the entire area then they're doing a disservice to the community by alienating the few of us in this situation. I've felt the turned up nose of the NAB and I've done something about it. I'm a XM radio subscriber. I couldn't get the services the FCC entrusted to the NAB to provide the public so I purchased the services for myself.

Don't take this away. Quite wasting my tax dollars on this and stand up for the little guy when he really needs it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Ed Reed